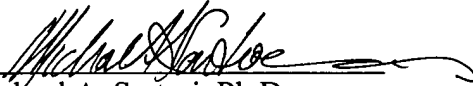


**REMARKS**

The amendments to the claims are to remove multiple dependencies. An action on the merits is request at the earliest opportunity.

Dated: April 21, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By   
Michael A. Sartori, Ph.D.

Registration No.: 41,289

VENABLE LLP

P.O. Box 34385

Washington, DC 20043-9998

(202) 344-4000

(202) 344-8300 (Fax)

Attorney/Agent For Applicant

DC2-541403